to recreation parks, pisciculture farms and also act as water supply sources for local neighbourhood. There are some mines which have been given to West Bengal Government for water supply schemes.

(b) However, no specific offers have been received by the Government for development of surface areas over worked out underground mines.

Target for broadband connections

1025. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a target to provide two crore broadband connections by the year 2010;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that even less than 25 lakhs broadband connections were provided in the last seven years; and

(c) if so, the specific efforts proposed to be made for achieving this target?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Broadband Policy 2004 envisaged a target of 2 crore Broadband connections by 2010. As on 30th September, 2007, 26.12 lakh broadband connections have been provided.

(c) In roder to increase the penetration of Broadband services in the country, various steps taken/being taken, *inter-alia*, are:

(i) Both outdoor and indoor usage of low power Wi-fi and Wireless Broadband systems in 2.4 GHz-2.4835 GHz band, and use of low power indoor systems in 5.15-5.35 GHz and 5.725-5.875 GHz have been delicensed.

(ii) Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 has been suitably amended to enable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) support for provision of Broadband connectivity to villages in a phased manner.

(iii) Connectivity of 512 Kbps with Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) 2 Plus technology (on wire) is being provided to Common Service Centres (CSCs) from 20,000 existing exchanges in rural areas having optical fibre connectivity.

(iv) USOF support is being provided for setting up and managing 7871 infrastructure sites spread over 500 Districts for provision of mobile services in rural and remote areas which are not covered by wireless signal. This infrastructure will be used to provide Broadband connectivity from the newly covered Block/Taluka headquarters.

(v) Government will now provide spectrum to three operators in the 2.5 GHz band for providing Broadband Wireless Access.

Death claims under Postal Life Insurance Scheme

1026. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state: